

THE INFLUENCE OF THE STUDENTS' MASTERY IN TENSES ON THEIR ABILITY IN WRITING SENTENCES AT THE SECOND GRADE STUDENTS OF *SMP PGRI CIWARINGIN*

A THESIS

Submitted to the English Education Department of Tarbiyah Faculty
in Partial Fulfillment of The Requirements for Islamic Scholar Degree – S.Pd.I.



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ABSTRACT

SRI MULYANI: The Influence of The Students' Mastery in Tenses on Their Ability in Writing Sentences at The Second Grade Students of SMP PGRI Ciwaringin

Indonesia is one of the countries whose people learn English for the sake of international relationship and for the sake of its own development. Therefore, students are taught English since they are in Elementary school. By learning the international language as soon as possible, it is hoped that they can acquire the language more easily. And their lack of tenses mastery seems to be the problem on their ability in writing sentences.

There are four skills in any language namely, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Those skills should be mastered if someone wants to be good at a language. For junior high school students, it is the right time to learn and master writing skill and of course with a good grammar use. One of the language rules is tenses, generally tenses is the change of verb to express time of an event. If they can make correct and grammatical sentences, absolutely they can make good writing in the future. Therefore, the writer is of the opinion that the students must have mastered grammar, especially tenses to write good sentences in English.

The method of the research is quantitative. It means that the researcher does the research by using the formula of statistic, especially by using the formula of product moment correlation by Pearson. The population of the research is 42 students. It means that the population is less than 100, so all of the population are taken as the sample of the research. The qualitative data are analyzed by observing the objective condition of the school, and the quantitative data are analyzed by using product moment by Pearson.

The result of the influence of the students' mastery in tenses on their ability in writing sentences at the second grade students of *SMP PGRI Ciwaringin* indicates that the students have a good ability in mastering tenses and they can make good sentences. It shows that the result has the positive influence, it means that there is a good influence of the students' mastery in tenses on their ability in writing sentences, they can write English correctly when they understand and master the tenses.

From the result of the research shows that the students' mastery in tenses reaches the score 66.19, the students' ability in writing sentences shows the score 69.29, and the influence of the students' mastery in tenses and their ability in writing sentences shows the score 0.72. It means that there is a positive and significant influence, of the students' mastery in tenses on their ability in writing sentences, they can write English correctly after they understand and master the tenses. The students with good tenses mastery can make good sentences while the students with less tenses mastery can't make good sentences yet. Therefore, tenses is very important in understanding English.



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INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of The Problem

It goes without saying that the existence of language in the world cannot be separated from the existence of human beings. God created human beings with the whole completeness created by God is language. By means of language human beings will be able to communicate with the other fellow human beings. In other words, language is the only means to communicate. Without the existence of language, they are not able to communicate. And it means that they are the same as the other creatures, say, animals.

Any language that exists in the word will have four skills of language namely, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In communication these four skills of language will be used by the user of language. Therefore, anybody who learns a language especially, the students they must master the four skills of language in order that they can use it in a real life. However, one of the language skills which is frequently used is speaking. People everywhere when meeting one another they will absolutely talk. Fromkin and Rodman (1983: 3) explain that:

whatever else people may do when they come together – whether they play, fight, make love, or make automobiles – they talk. We live in a world of words. We talk to our friends, our associates, our wives and husbands, our lovers, our teachers, our parents and in laws. We talk to the bus drivers and total strangers.

Based on the explanation above it is clearly known that people talk in any activities such as, playing, fighting, making love, making auto mobiles, and so

forth they of course talk, they talk to their friend, associates, husbands and wives, lovers and so forth even they talk to the people who just know. They live in the world of words. Television and radio also broadcast the program by using the words. Shortly spelling people in their lives cannot be separated from the words, even there are some of them also talk to animals.

The existence of a language indicates a group of people of the language users who are then called an ethnic group and a nation. Ethnic group is part of a nation that live in a region; meanwhile, the nation is a group of ethnic groups that live in a country. Every ethnic group has their own language which is different one another. Indonesia as a country consists of many ethnic groups which have their own language and one another is different. For example, Javanese people have Javanese language, Sudanese people have Sudanese language, Balinese people have Balinese language, and many others not to mention here. And in communication it is very impossible if they use a different language or two languages. Such a communication is absolutely not understood by one another. Therefore, they must use the same language or one language.

For the ethnic groups of Indonesia, they do not find difficulties in communication one another because they have committed to use one language or the same language namely, Indonesia as their national language. And Indonesia also becomes one of the school subjects that is taught in the schools from elementary schools until universities. Therefore, Indonesia nation is called bilingual namely, the users of two languages. The historical background namely,



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the oath of youth on October 28, 1928. With the spirit of the oath of youth the Indonesia nation was able to proclaim the independence from the colonization of Dutch for 350 years that is on Augustus 17, 1945 by SoekarnoHatta.

The content of the oath of youth is as follows.

1. *Kami poetradanpoetriIndonesa, mengakoebertoeempahdarahjangsatoe, tanah air Indonesia.* (We, sons and daughters of Indonesia, admit to have one country the country of Indonesia)
2. *Kami poetradanpoetri Indonesia mengakoeberbangsajangsatoe, bangsa Indonesia.* (We, sons and daughters of Indonesia, admit to have one nation the nation of Indonesia)
3. *Kami poetradan poetry Indonesia mengjoenjoengbahasapersatoean, bahasa Indonesia.* (We, sons and daughters of Indonesia, admit to have one language the language of Indonesia)

Djakarta, 28 Oktober 1928

Based on the content of the oath of youth above, it is absolutely know that there is an existence of the admittance of all the youths of Indonesia about the existence of a country, a nation, and a language. That is why, Indonesia becomes the language of country out a national language which is used as a tool of communication by all ethnic groups of Indonesia who have their own different ethnic languages.

Also the nations all over the world who have different languages of the countries one another do not find difficulties in communication, because they



have committed to use English as the only language, which is used as a tool of communication between or among themselves. Even not only someone, an ethnic group, and a nation as a social being can live alone. They used to communicate with someone else, the other ethnic group, and the other nation. Communication between or among ethnic groups exists in one country. Meanwhile, communication between or among the countries of course with the different countries or nations is then organized by an organizations (UNO) located in Washington D.C the United States of America. Therefore, all nations in the world including Indonesia of non-English native speakers learn English is for the sake of international communication.

Naturally, as a social creature human beings cannot live alone. They need to communicate with the other fellow human beings. Communication between or among human beings is supposed to be the basic need of the lives for human beings themselves. By communication between or among themselves so, the lives of human beings of thousand years ago was much more different from the lives of human beings at present and also in the future. Even for Muslims communication between or among human beings is not only supposed to be the foundation of their lives but is also supposed to be the command of God (al – Hujarot ; 3)

كُمۡ إِن لِّتَعَارَفُوا۟ أَوْ قَبَآئِلَ شُعُوبًاۖ وَجَعَلْنٰكُمْ وَأَتَىٰ ذِكْرٍۭ مِّنۡ خَلْقِنَاۤ إِنَّ النَّاسُ يُتَآءِیٰهَا
 خَبِيرٌۭ عَلِيمٌۭ إِنَّ اتَّقَنَكُمْ ٱللَّهُ عِنْدَ ٱكْرَمِ



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13. O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other (not that you may despise each other). Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things).

Based on the verse above, it is clearly known that human beings were created into two sexes namely, male and female, then they made themselves into tribes and nations in order that they know one another. God did not differ all human beings. In the sight of God, all human beings were the same. The most honored human beings be liven or among themselves was there righteousness to God. God knows all things about human beings and universe.

In communication human beings, of course use a language. Language is the only tool for communication one another. In that verse, explicitly the word or the definition of a language does not, as a matter of fact exist. But implicitly, human beings in communication one another absolutely use a language. And maybe it can be said that there is no yet any expert who declares about a language that was used by the first human beings at that time namely, Adam and Eve. The existence of a number of languages which is different from one another does not become the problem for human beings because they can learn one another's language. But any one who learns a language especially, the students who learn a language in the schools should know the definition of a language so that they can learn accurately and diligently and be able to use the language properly and correctly in accordance with its foundation namely, a tool of communication.



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Bram (1955: 2) defines that “language is a structured system of arbitrary vocal symbol by means of which members of a social group interact.” Meanwhile, Sapir (1955: 7) defines that “language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communication ideas, emotions and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbol.” Hughes (1962: 6) defines that “language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by which thought is converted from one human being to another.” De Vito (1970: 7) defines that “language is a potentially self – reflection, structured system of symbols which catalog the objects, events, and relations in the word.”

According to compact dictionary of Canadian English (1970: 382):

language is n.1 all of the systems by which human beings combine sounds into meaningful units, such as words, to convey ideas and feeling. 2 any such system that is or has been used by a group of people: the French language. 3 the words, phrases, etc. peculiar to special fields or knowledge or activity; terminology: technical language. 4 any way or means of communicating: the language of animals. 5 any style or verbal expression; diction: simple language.

Based on the definitions above, it is clearly known that language is the sound symbols which are articulated produced by the organs of speech and has the characteristics of arbitrary and conventional to convey ideas and thoughts. It is supposed to be the words that are used by an ethnic group and nation. The sounds of a language are in the forms of words, phrases, and sentences that are supposed to be structured system of symbols which catalog the objects, events, and relations in the world. According to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (1990: 66):



Bahasa adalah 1. System lembaga bunyi berartikulasi (yang dihasilkan alat-alat ucap) yang bersifat sewenang-wenang dan konvensional yang dipakai sebagai alat komunikasi; untuk melahirkan perasaan dan pikiran; 2. Perkataan – perkataan yang dipakai oleh satu bangsa (suku bangsa, Negara, daerah dsb)

Language is 1. System of articulated sound symbols (produced by the organs of speech) when is arbitrary and conventional used as an instrument of communication to express feelings and thought ; 2. The words which are used by a nation (ethnic group, country, religion, etc).

Based on the definition above, it can be conclude that language is simply a system of sound symbols which is articulated. The sound symbols which is produced by organs of speech and it is arbitrary and conventional used to express feelings and thoughts. It is words that is used by small group of people (ethnic or group) or a large number of people (nation or country).

It must be admitted that English is very much different from Indonesian or the other ethnic languages existing in Indonesia whether seen from the point of the way of pronouncing and writing the words on seen from the point of the rules of a language. These differences cause the students get confused so that they make many mistakes when using English whether in oral or especially in written. The mistake in using a language in any form must immediately be corrected so that it can be understood or there will never be misunderstanding in communication.

Every language certainly has their own words and rules of a language and one another is different. This language difference causes people learn another people's language besides their own native language. English has many rules of a



language. The rules of a language are supposed to be the foundation of a language itself. And one of the rules of a language is tenses. Tenses can be said as the foundation of the rules of a language. The student of the second grade at SMP PGRI Ciwaringin in general they cannot write the correct sentences whether seen from the point of the use of the words or seen from the point of sentences. Their difficulties in writing the correct sentences are in general relating to the forms of tenses are supposed to be the problem in the process of teaching and learning English in the class.

Based on the discussion above, the writer did the research to know the influence of the students' mastery in tenses on their ability in writing English sentences.

B. The Identification of The Problem

To identify the problem in writing this thesis, the writer has classified it into the following parts:

a. The Field of The Research

The research field in writing this thesis is grammar, discussing about the students' mastery in tenses. And then the students' mastery in tenses is developed with their ability to write the correct sentences.

b. The Kind of The Problem

The kind of the problem in writing this thesis is about the students' difficulties in learning tenses. Because of so many forms of tenses that the



number reaches for more than ten forms of tenses so in this case, the writer just would like to discuss their learning difficulties about three forms of tenses namely, simple present tense, present continues tense, and simple past tense that are then related to the various forms of tenses are not only supposed to be the problem but also supposed to be the main problem in writing this thesis.

C. The Main Problem

As a matter of fact, English has a great number of the rules of language that confuse the people especially, the students who learn English. The rules of a language are supposed to be the foundation of a language itself. One of the rules of a language is tenses. Tenses have various forms that are possibly difficult to learn. As having been discussed in the kind of the problem and the main problem that the students get difficulties in learning tenses so that they can make mistakes when using tenses in their exercise. That is why, in this case the written will only limit the students' learning difficulties about tenses in three forms of tenses namely, simple present tense, present continuous, and simple past tense. And then the students' knowledge about tenses is developed by writing various forms of sentences.

D. The Questions of The Research

The questions of the research in writing this thesis are as follows

1. How is the students' mastery in tenses?





2. How is the students' ability to write the correct sentences?
3. Is there any positive and significant influence of the students' mastery in tenses on their ability to write the correct sentences?

E. The Aims of The Research

The aims of the research in writing this thesis are as follows:

1. To find out the students' mastery in tenses.
2. To find out the students' ability to write the correct sentences.
3. To find out if there is positive and significant influence of the students' mastery in tenses on their ability to write the correct sentences.

F. The Usefulness of The Research.

The Usefulness of the Research is hoped that it can attract the students' intention to be diligent while writing various forms of sentences that are of course really close to the forms of tenses. In other words, the students will legalize that in writing every sentences there will be of course the form of tenses inside. And the students will get used to writing the correct sentences.



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The Holy Qur'an Text and Translation